

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LITHUANIAN PARTY MEETING ON QUESTIONS OF MILITARY
SERVICE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. A REPUBLIC COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE WAS
HELD IN LITHUANIA ON MARCH 18 TO EXAMINE QUESTIONS OF
"FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF PREPARATION OF YOUTHS FOR SERVICE IN THE
SOVIET ARMED FORCES." THERE WERE POINTED REMARKS ABOUT THE
CONTINUING THREAT OF IMPERIALISM AND SEVERAL ADMISSIONS OF
SHORTCOMINGS AMONG LITHUANIAN YOUTHS IN THEIR READINESS FOR
SERVICE IN THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGEN CALLS ATTENTION TO MARCH 25 ISSUE OF SOVYETSKAYA
LITVA WHICH CONTAINS ACCOUNT OF MARCH 18 REPUBLIC PARTY CONFERENCE
ON QUESTIONS OF MILITARY SERVICE BY LITHUANIAN YOUTHS. ASSUME
FULL TEXT AVAILABLE THROUGH FBIS, BUT CONGEN WISHES HIGHLIGHT
FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH OF SECOND SECRETARY OF
LITHUANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, V. KHARAZOV.

3. KHARAZOV EMPHASIZED THAT PREPARATION OF YOUTH FOR SERVICE
IN MILITARY FORCES IS TASK FOR ENTIRE STATE AND ALL PARTY
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MEMBERS. THIS APPROACH ONLY CORRECT METHOD UNDER "EXISTING

INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND INTENSE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE." IMMENSE SUCCESSES OF U.S.S.R. IN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LIFE HAVE ALWAYS AROUSED RABID HATE OF IMPERIALISTS. SOVIET PEOPLE HAVE SEVERAL TIMES HAD TO TAKE UP ARMS TO REPULSE AGGRESSORS WHO WANTED TO ANNIHILATE SOVIET STATE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF GREAT OCTOBER REVOLUTION. "IT IS NAIVETE TO THINK THAT NATURE AND AIMS OF IMPERIALISTS HAVE CHANGED -- THEY ARE THE SAME, ONLY THEIR METHODS AND MEANS OF ACHIEVEMENT HAVE CHANGED."

4. FOLLOWING STANDARD PRAISE OF PATRIOTIC ATTITUDE OF LITHUANIAN YOUTH AND THEIR ADEPTNESS IN MILITARY CALLING, KHARAZOV BROUGHT OUT SEVERAL SHORTCOMINGS. THESE WERE ENUMERATED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) POOR EDUCATION. SOME YOUTHS SENT FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN 1974 LACKED EVEN AN EIGHTH-GRADE EDUCATION. FOR EXAMPLE, 14 O/O OF DRAFTEES FROM IOANVSKIY DISTRICT AND 13 O/O FROM UKMERGSKIY DISTRICT LACKED AN EIGHTH-GRADE EDUCATION. MANY YOUTHS FROM KEDAYNSKIY AND PRENAYSKIY RAYONS HAD LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS OF EDUCATION. KHARAZOV MENTIONED THAT A SIMILAR PARTY CONFERENCE HELD THREE YEARS AGO HAD CRITICIZED THESE DISTRICTS FOR LOW EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF YOUTHS OF MILITARY AND PRE-MILITARY AGE, BUT THAT NO CONCLUSIONS WERE DRAWN FROM THIS CRITICISM.

(B) PRE-MILITARY TRAINING. KHARAZOV CRITICIZED FACT THAT MANY DISTRICTS LACK SHOOTING RANGES AND GALLERIES AND TRAINING OF PUPILS IS UNSATISFACTORY. KOMSOMOL AND VOLUNTARY SOCIETY FOR ASSISTING ARMY, AIR FORCE AND NAVY (DOSAAF) CRITICIZED FOR NOT DISPLAYING PERSISTENCE IN DEVELOPING SHOOTING SPORTS.

(C) LACK OF PARTY RESPONSIBILITY. KHARAZOV TERMED "ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS" THE ASPIRATION OF SOME PARTY ORGANIZATIONS TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MILITARY-PATRIOTIC TRAINING AND IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION OF YOUTH TO KOMSOMOL AND DOSAAF. ALTHOUGH THESE ORGANIZATIONS NATURALLY DEVOTE MUCH ATTENTION TO YOUTH EDUCATION, KHARAZOV SAID IT IS PARTY COMMITTEES AND SECRETARIES OF PRIMARY PARTY ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MUST BE RESPONSIBLE, AND THAT SUCH PROBLEMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR AT JOINT CONFERENCES.

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(D) DEFICIENT IDEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND. KHARAZOV SAID THAT KOMSOMOL CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND DISTRICT AND CITY COMMITTEES DESERVE SERIOUS CRITICISM FOR POOR RECRUITMENT OF YOUTHS INTO RANKS OF KOMSOMOL, ADDING THAT IT "DOES NOT BECOME THE REPUBLIC" TO SEND DRAFTEES TO MILITARY SERVICE, 32 O/O OF WHOM ARE NOT MEMBERS OF KOMSOMOL. KHARAZOV NAMED FOLLOWING RAYONS WHERE ONLY 55 O/O OR 60 O/O OF DRAFTEES ARE KOMSOMOL MEMBERS: LENINSKIY RAYON OF VILNIUS,

LENINSKIY RAYON OF KAUNAS, AND THE ALITUSSKIY,
TEL'SHYAISKIY, SHYAULYAYSKIY RAYONS.

5. COMMENT: ONE MAY ASSUME THAT TRUE SITUATION AMONG
LITHUANIAN YOUTHS OF MILITARY AGE MAY WELL BE WORSE THAN
STIPULATED CRITICISMS. ALTHOUGH EVERY EFFORT IS MADE IN
PROPAGANDA TO DEPICT LITHUANIANS AS STAUNCH SOVIET CITIZENS,
THERE IS NO AVOIDING THE NEGATIVE EFFECT OF CONTINUING
NATIONALISM ON EAGERNESS OF LITHUANIAN YOUTHS TO TROOP
HAPPILY OFF TO RED BANNERS OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES.
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